



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall
Minutes

May 2, 2013 6:30-8:30 pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble (Chair)
Lillian Childress (Secretary)
Casey Schwarz
Judith Deming
Diane Bonavita
Karen Corey
Emilie Hauser

Guests: Mary McClellan

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:37 pm

There was no public comment.

Minutes: The April 2013 CAC minutes were accepted with no amendments: K. Corey moved to accept, C. Schwarz seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Old Business:

1. Natural Resources Inventory, Habitat Map

Many questions were brought up about the scope, purpose, and execution of our NRI and habitat map projects. One was the question of whether we wanted the NRI to be more comprehensive, detailing both more urban areas and vacant land, and including areas such as Kingston Point Peninsula, Wiltwyck Cemetery, Block Park, and Sailor's Cove, among others. This led the discussion to the differences between vacant and undeveloped land, which type we wanted maps of, and if we had enough time and resources to get more mapping done. Another, slightly different, question was whether we wanted details of streams or just the streams themselves on our maps. We concluded that these maps of streams may likely exist, and with the help of a DEP volunteer or other, we may be able to obtain them.

2. Fortis, Inc. Merger

Committees of certain local towns have signed resolutions against the merger; Kingston's status at the time of the meeting was "pending resolution for opposition." The CAC voted unanimously in favor of drafting a letter to the common council urging them to oppose the project and a template resolution in order to oppose the merger.

3. Website Hosting Invoice

CIX Designs, the website hosting service for the CAC, has again requested their yearly hosting fee. The CAC has asked Scenic Hudson to cover the cost of the website, and hopes that they will.

4. NYSACC Dues (\$75)

The CAC split the cost for NYSACC dues among its members at the meeting. However, at the recommendation of the public safety committee, the CAC is writing a letter to Jim Noble requesting an annual budget. This will include money to cover costs for NYSACC dues, website hosting, communications and marketing, events, and meeting or conference registrations.

New Business

1. Secretary Position Vacancy Approaching

L. Childress, the current secretary, will be leaving the CAC in June. J.Deming is also leaving. K. Corey agreed to be the new secretary for the CAC. K.Corey self-nominated, D.Bonavita seconded, the CAC voted unanimously in favor.

2. SUNY ESF Student Project

E.Hauser showed the CAC the senior project that a SUNY ESF student recently sent her. The project was a cost-benefit analysis of certain types of green infrastructure for Kingston. One thing it focused on was the Hasbrouck sewershed, which is bringing the most sewage to the nearby sewage treatment plant, causing overflow. Included was the cost-benefit analysis of making five buildings in the sewershed “green”. At the June CAC meeting, Kevin will present further his project in more depth to the CAC.

Updates/ Reports

1. Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force

They will be meeting on the 23rd at City hall. They are looking at some draft proposals for changes to be made in the 50 and 100 year time scale. All draft proposals are on the CAC website. There are three adaptation strategies that the Task Force is trying to put together a recommendation for each location: fortify/armour, retreat (move), or accommodate.

2. Planning Board

Attendees reported that there was nothing relevant to the CAC discussed.

3. Climate Action Task Force

The Climate Action Task Force recently met, and talked about marketing and how to communicate what they’re working on. They are currently creating a Facebook page. They are trying to figure out how to market such a large document; perhaps by dividing it into more manageable chunks. They are also looking into finding the resources and justification to hire a city sustainability coordinator.

Adjourn: L.Childress moved to adjourn and J. Deming seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

NEXT MEETING: June 6, 2013, 6:30- 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lillian Childress